THANOS®

MARVEL

#9

LEMIRE
PERALTA
ROSENBERG

A total obsession with power drives him--to control the forces of the universe.
He is the Mad Titan. He is...

THANOS

When Thanos the Mad Titan was struck with a terminal illness, his son Thane took advantage of the situation and recruited Nebula, Tryco Slatterus, and his father's brother, Starfox, to assassinate Thanos. But seduced by Death – his father's former love – Thane betrayed his teammates and harnessed the dreaded Phoenix Force, unleashing destruction on the planet Titan and his father...

Though weakened and now mortal, Thanos managed to survive the attack and partnered with his would-be assassins in order to stop Thane from destroying the universe. Their quest for something powerful enough to combat the Phoenix has led them to the far reaches of the space to the God Quarry – where old gods go to die...

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WELCOME TO THE GOD QUARRY, SONS OF TITAN.

WELCOME TO THE PRECIPICE.

WELCOME TO OUR DEN.

WHAT IS THIS "GOD QUARRY"? I SEE NOTHING BUT A GRAVEYARD. I CAME SEEKING THE POWER YOU ARE SAID TO HOLD, WITCHES, NOT TO GAZE UPON THE OSSIFIED CORPSES OF ANCIENT GODS.

ANSWER ME OR I SWEAR I'LL *RIP THE TONGUES* FROM YOUR MOUTHS.

THANOS OF TITAN, YOU ARE IN NO POSITION TO DO ANYTHING OF THE SORT.

YOUR WORDS ARE HOLLOW. YOU ARE WEAK.

NOT JUST WEAK, SISTER, *IMPOTENT*. WHY ELSE WOULD HE DARE COME HERE?

HOW DARE Y--

AHEM. PERHAPS WE SHOULD TRY A *GENTLER* APPROACH, BROTHER.

LADIES, WE DO NOT MEAN TO BE ADVERSARIAL. BUT AS YOU MUST KNOW, THERE IS GREAT IMBALANCE IN THE UNIVERSE.

MY UNSTABLE NEPHEW HAS THE PHOENIX FORCE.

THANOS SEEKS THE RETURN OF HIS POWER SO THAT WE MAY ELIMINATE THANE.

NOW THEN, YOU LOVELY LADIES ARE *MORE* THAN WILLING TO HELP US IN ANY WAY YOU CAN... *AREN'T YOU?*

YOU TRY TO USE YOUR *POWER* TO INFLUENCE THE SISTERS OF ETERNITY, EROS OF TITAN?

SHRACK

UNGH!

NO ONE IN THE UNIVERSE KNOWS WHERE THANOS HAS GONE OR WHAT WILL BECOME OF HIM. BUT HE IS NOT THE ONLY ONE FACING A TRIAL.

FOR, FAR AWAY AMONG THE RUINS OF TITAN, **HIS SON** COMES CALLING.

AND HE IS **NOT ALONE.**

HE IS GONE. THANOS IS NO LONGER ON TITAN. HOW CAN THAT BE?

WE WILL FIND HIM. HE IS POWERLESS. **LOST.** HE CANNOT HAVE GOTTEN FAR.

BESIDES, WE HAVE **MORE PRESSING** MATTERS TO TEND TO.

NO! IT WAS *YOUR IDEA* TO STRIP THANOS OF HIS POWER AND STRAND HIM HERE! WE SHOULD HAVE JUST *KILLED HIM* WHEN WE HAD THE CHANCE!

THANOS IS NO THREAT TO YOU ANYMORE, THANE. YOU HAVE TO LET HIM GO. THE UNIVERSE IS OURS IF WE WANT IT.

BUT IT IS ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE THE HEROES OF EARTH COME FOR YOU. SO WE NEED TO STRIKE FIRST.

LET US GO THERE AND LET THE *SIX BILLION SOULS* OF EARTH SING MY NAME.

THANE? THANE, ARE YOU *EVEN LISTENING TO ME?*

I--

YOU THERE! *SHOW YOURSELF!*

W-WE DON'T MEAN *NO HARM*, SIR. *PLEASE*, LET US GO.

THAT HELMET. WHERE DID YOU GET THAT?

WELL-- UH...YOU SEE--

WE SAW THANOS. DIDN'T THINK IT WAS *REALLY HIM* BUT--

WHERE DID HE GO?

A SHIP CAME FOR HIM. THREE PEOPLE ON IT. A BLUE ALIEN-LOOKING GIRL, A BIG DUMB-LOOKING GUY WITH LOTS OF HAIR AND A PONCY FELLA WITH A FANCY RED SUIT AND POINTY HAIR.

THEY ARGUED A BIT, THEN THEY ALL TOOK OFF TOGETHER.

STARFOX, TRYCO AND NEBULA. WE WERE WRONG TO UNDERESTIMATE THEM.

EASY, THANE. AS I SAID, EARTH IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN--

NO! ENOUGH!

I AM TIRED OF YOU TELLING ME WHAT TO DO! I HAVE THE POWER NOW. I AM IN CHARGE! I DECIDE WHAT WE DO NEXT!

...

VERY WELL, THANE. THEN TELL ME, WHAT WOULD YOU DO?

I WILL SCOUR THE UNIVERSE UNTIL I FIND THEM.

IF THIS IS WHAT YOU WANT, I WILL HELP YOU FIND THEM.

IT IS WHAT I WANT.

BUT... ONE MORE THING.

THANE?

THAT HELMET...

H-HERE. I MEANT NO HARM.

AND SO, EMBOLDENED, THANE FLIES OFF, READY TO SEARCH ALL OF **SPACE AND TIME** FOR THANOS AND HIS COMPANIONS.

LITTLE DOES HE KNOW THAT THANOS AND STARFOX HAVE BEEN LOST TO ANOTHER DIMENSION **BEYOND** ALL SPACE AND TIME.

BUT BEFORE WE CHECK IN ON THEM, A **BRIEF** INTERLUDE...

I'M TIRED OF WAITING! IT'S BEEN ***HOURS!***

YOU ARE QUITE LITERALLY THE ***SINGLE*** MOST ***IMPATIENT*** PERSON I HAVE EVER MET, TRYCO. WOULD YOU PLEASE STOP YOUR MOANING?

HUMPH! I AM *THE* CHAMPION OF THE UNIVERSE, NEBULA! SITTING AROUND PICKING MY TEETH IS NOT A MISSION BEFITTING OF MY TALENTS!

IF YOU WANT TO GO IN THERE AFTER THEM, GO FOR IT, TRYCO. SEE IF I CARE.

:SIGH: I'M JUST BORED. WHAT ARE WE SUPPOSED TO DO JUST SITTING HERE?

WELL...WE COULD SEE WHAT OTHER TALENTS YOU HAVE, "CHAMPION OF THE UNIVERSE."

HUH? WHAT DO YOU--

OH!

WELL, UM--I GUESS WE COULD--

DO ME A FAVOR, BIG GUY. STOP TALKING.

AHEM. IF I WERE TRYCO SLATTERUS, I WOULD LISTEN TO NEBULA.

AND, BEYOND THE VOID, STARFOX GETS A LESSON IN MANNERS...

YOU THINK YOU ARE ANYTHING HERE, CHILD OF TITAN?

WE HAVE BEEN HERE LONGER THAN ANY GOD, LONGER THAN ANY WORLD.

ARRRGH!

KRZZT

YOUR ARROGANCE HAS NO PLACE HERE, EROS.

OH, HE'S NOT JUST ARROGANT, SISTERS. HE IS ALSO VAIN.

AH YES, PERHAPS A HEX TO TEACH HIM HUMILITY?

N-NO! PLEASE!

P-PLEASE-- PLEASE NOT THIS.

ANYTHING BUT THIS.

THE NEXT TIME YOU THINK TO USE YOUR POWERS OF MANIPULATION, REMEMBER HOW YOU BEGGED, EROS.

LIFE IS A FRAGILE THING, EVEN HERE.

ESPECIALLY HERE.

I--I STAND HUMBLED, LADIES.

HEH.

OH, DID THAT *AMUSE YOU*, BROTHER?!

YOUR FOLLIES ALWAYS AMUSE ME, EROS.

YOU BASTARD!

UNGH!

MY WHOLE LIFE I HAVE HAD TO LIVE IN THE SHADOW OF YOUR EVIL!

CAN YOU POSSIBLY KNOW WHAT IT IS LIKE TO BE THE *BROTHER OF A DEMON*?!

AND HERE I AM AGAIN, TRYING TO HELP YOU CLEAN UP YOUR OWN DAMN MESS, WITH THE ENTIRE UNIVERSE HANGING IN THE BALANCE!

AND YOU HAVE THE *GALL* TO LAUGH AT ME?!

HAD YOU SHOWN MORE OF THAT MOXY GROWING UP, EROS, I MAY HAVE HAD MORE RESPECT FOR YOU.

HA HA! THEY MAKE OUR SQUABBLES LOOK RATHER PALE IN COMPARISION. DON'T THEY, SISTERS?

HRRN... *ENOUGH* OF THIS, WITCHES.

YOU THREE KNOW *FULL WELL* WHY I HAVE COME. I SEEK MY *FULL POWER* BACK, AND YOU THREE ARE SAID TO BE THE GUARDIANS OF THE LOST GODS.

THIS BORES ME, SISTERS. LET'S CAST THEM AWAY.

FOR THEIR INSOLENCE, THEY DESERVE TO BE DESTROYED.

TSK. NOW, NOW, SISTERS. IT IS NOT OUR PLACE TO DESTROY OR TO CAST AWAY...

YOU ARE CORRECT ABOUT ONE THING, THANOS. WE ARE THE CARETAKERS OF THIS PLACE AND THE DEAD AND FORGOTTEN GODS WHO HAVE COME TO REST HERE...AND THE QUARRY STILL HOLDS ALL OF THEIR POWER.

BUT THAT POWER IS NOT OURS TO GIVE OR TAKE.

THAT DEPENDS *ON YOU.*

HOW SO? EXPLAIN, SORCERESS!

THE QUARRY GIVES OR TAKES. THOSE WHO ENTER IT WILLINGLY FACE A TRIAL FOR THEIR VERY SOUL.

SHOULD YOU PASS, THE POWER YOU WANT CAN BE YOURS. HOWEVER...

...SHOULD YOU FAIL THIS TRIAL...YOU WILL JOIN THE OTHER DEITIES WHO ARE NOW *FROZEN FOR ETERNITY* IN THE QUARRY'S AGELESS WALLS.

AND, IN NEBULA'S SHIP...

WELL, I DIDN'T SEE *THAT* COMING.

YEAH, WELL, DON'T GET USED TO IT. IT WAS A ONE-TIME THING.

OH, I DON'T KNOW, WHO KNOWS *HOW LONG* THEY'RE GOING TO BE IN THAT BLACK HOLE.

WHEN THEY DO GET BACK, REMEMBER ONE THING, SLATTERUS... THIS *NEVER HAPPENED.*

FINE. IT ALMOST MADE UP FOR YOUR NEARLY CASTRATING ME BACK ON TITAN.

EEP EEP EEP

WHAT IS IT?!

PROXIMITY ALARM!

THANOS AND STARFOX? HAVE THEY RETURNED?

IT'S NOT THEM. SOMEONE OR SOMETHING ELSE IS CLOSE.

WAY OUT HERE?

WHATEVER IT IS, IT'S STILL A LONG WAY OFF, BUT CLOSING IN *FAST.*

HOLD ON, I'VE LOCKED ONTO IT AND I'M MAGNIFYING THE VIEW....

OH, @#&$!

@#&$ INDEED, TRYCO SLATTERUS.

AND AS THANE CLOSES IN ON THEM, THANOS IS FACED WITH A CHOICE.

SO TELL US, MAD TITAN, HAVE YOU COME HERE TO WASTE OUR TIME, OR WILL YOU ENTER THE QUARRY?

HUMPH. VERY WELL. LET'S HAVE AT IT.

WAIT-- MAYBE WE SHOULD TALK ABOUT THIS!

I THINK YOU HAVE ALREADY SAID ENOUGH, EROS. BESIDES, WHAT IS THERE LEFT TO DISCUSS? WE HAVE ALREADY COME THIS FAR.

AND ONE MORE THING, BROTHER. IF I SURVIVE THIS, I WILL MAKE YOU PAY FOR DARING TO LAY YOUR HANDS ON ME.

:SIGH: FINE. GO AHEAD, YOU MAD MAN! I DON'T KNOW WHY I EVEN BOTHER!

NOR DO I.

ONE WAY OR ANOTHER, THIS WAS ALWAYS GOING TO BE *MY JOURNEY*, EROS.

HRRM. THIS IS... *STRANGE.*

NO!

WH-WHAT TRICKERY IS THIS?!

KRRRKKT

THANOS?!

NO TRICKERY.

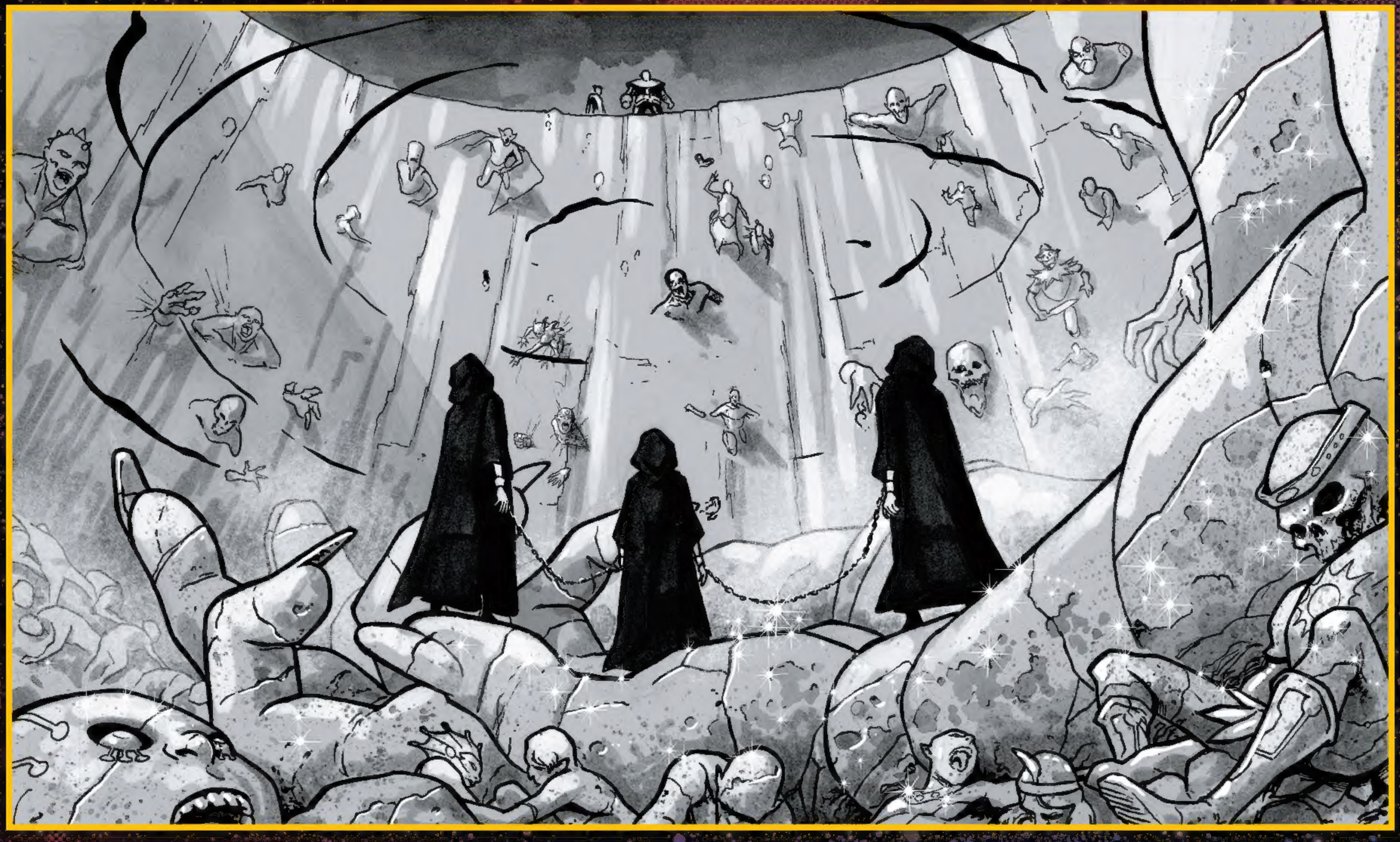
THE QUARRY HAS HIM NOW.

HIS TRIAL IS *JUST BEGINNING.*

TO BE CONTINUED...

THANOS

THE SECRET ORIGIN OF THE GOD QUARRY



When my son Gus was about four years old, he was REALLY into Greek mythology. And, as four-year-old boys often are, he was also REALLY into trucks. So one day we were digging in the sandbox in our backyard and he was digging a really deep hole. He was talking about Greek gods and mythology as he dug and when he finished his hole he said, "Daddy, this is a God Quarry."

A lightbulb went off in my head. The image that conjured in my mind was one of ancient gods being excavated in some cosmic pit. I wrote that phrase, "The God Quarry," down and knew it would work its way into a story one day. Fast forward four years and now Thanos has entered the God Quarry!

Lesson: Always pay attention to the things little kids say when they are digging holes in the backyard. So thanks to Gus Lemire for the God Quarry.

–JEFF

Send letters to **MHEROES@MARVEL.COM** or **135 W 50th St., 7th Floor, New York, NY 10020.** (Please mark **"OKAY TO PRINT."**)

NEXT ISSUE:

ON SALE NEXT MONTH!

ZONE